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COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
5-16 May and 12 June 1997
Agenda item 6

IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1996/31
AND DECISION 1995/304

Draft proposals submitted by the Acting Chairman
on the basis of informal consultations

DRAFT DECISION I

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides to recommend the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

"Enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its decision 1995/304 by which it decided, inter alia, to increase, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the current membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and to implement that decision after the completion of its review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations,

"Considering that it would be desirable to receive the views of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on this question,

"Recognizing that the Committee is at present undertaking a review of its methods of work, that this review could have implications for the enlargement of the Committee, and that the Committee is therefore not yet in a position to present its final views to the Council,

"1. Requests the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to present its views on the enlargement of the Committee to the Council;

"2. Decides to take a decision on this matter in 1998."

DRAFT DECISION II

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides to recommend the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

"Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that growing interest in the work of the United Nations on the part of non-governmental organizations has led to a very large increase in the number of applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,

"Noting also that the increase in the number of non-governmental organizations entails a consequent increase in the number of quadrennial reports to be considered by the Committee,

"Recognizing the need for further improvements in the working methods of the Committee,

"Recalling that in its resolution 1996/31, the Council placed additional responsibilities on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat,

"Recognizing the efforts of the staff of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to respond to the vastly increased demands placed upon it in recent years,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its [fifty-second/fifty-third] session setting out specific proposals to ensure that the current and foreseeable workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section can be met effectively and efficiently;

"2. Recommends that the General Assembly, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General and measures taken by the Committee to improve its methods of work and to deal with this workload, provide the necessary human, financial and technical resources to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to enable it to carry out its responsibilities, as set out in Council resolution 1996/31, efficiently, effectively and expeditiously."

DRAFT DECISION III

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides to recommend the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

"Meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

"The Economic and Social Council decides:

"(a) To authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold three one-week sessions in 1998 [and subsequent years];

"(b) To authorize the Committee to hold informal meetings prior to each session in 1998 and subsequent years for the purpose of clarifying matters arising from applications for consultative status;

"(c) To authorize the Committee to meet for five days in 1997 to consider enlargement of the Committee and issues related to the Committee's methods of work."

DRAFT DECISION IV

Consideration of applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides that it will not consider applications for consultative status that, six weeks prior to the relevant session of the Committee, are incomplete or that otherwise contain technical deficiencies with respect to the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and other relevant decisions of the Council or the Committee, and, in that regard, requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To inform non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status that applications that are incomplete or that otherwise contain technical deficiencies will not be considered by the Committee;

(b) To avoid presenting applications that are incomplete or that otherwise contain technical deficiencies to the Committee and to provide the Committee with a list of such applications.